

MAY 2, 1961

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Approved For Release 2003/12/02 : CIA-RDP75-00001R00490035-4

Evening Capital

1884-1961

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Published Daily Except Sunday By
THE CAPITAL-GAZETTE PRESS, ANNAPOLIS, MD.
213-215-217 WEST STREET, ANNAPOLIS, MD.
Branch Office: 417 Grain Highway, N.E., Glen Burnie, Md.
Editorial—Advertising—Subscriptions Telephone CO. 8-5011

Entered as Second Class Matter May 28, 1883, at the Post Office at
Annapolis, Maryland, under the Act of March 3, 1879. Second Class
postage paid at Annapolis, Md.

National Advertising Representatives
SHANNON & ASSOCIATES INC.
26 WEST 44TH STREET, NEW YORK 30, N.Y.
Branch Offices: Chicago, Atlanta, Detroit, Kansas City, Los Angeles,
San Francisco and St. Louis.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Delivered in Annapolis and vicinity by carrier for 40 cents per week,
\$1.75 per month on rural routes. By mail in the United States and
possessions and Canada, \$18.72 per year, \$9.36 for six months, or \$1.50
per month. Price at newsstands, 7 cents a copy.

Circulation Certified by the Audit Bureau of Circulations
Members: American Newspaper Publishers Association, Maryland
Press Association and National Editorial Association

The Navy's Role

Throughout history, admirals and generals have found themselves occupying dual roles—that of being fighting men and diplomats at the same time. To play this double part effectively is more important than ever today when cold war may become hot at any moment.

It is a situation in which the U. S. Navy bears a great responsibility, in the opinion of Adm. Jerauld Wright, USN (ret.), who spoke last Friday night at the Foreign Affairs Conference at the Naval Academy.

Touching on the Navy's role in foreign affairs, Admiral Wright said, among other things, that "Our Navy men bear great responsibility in carrying the good will of the United States to other nations."

It becomes vital, then, for the Navy's fighting men also to become ambassadors of good will. As Admiral Wright pointed out, Navy men in foreign ports are more representative of the American way of life than tourists, commercial agents or persons in the diplomatic service.

It is equally important, the Admiral emphasized, for the Navy and the other branches of the armed forces to work together to defend the United States.

"We are actually at war, except for the shooting," he said.

This being the case, the Navy's role in keeping the peace or winning the peace, if necessary, looms exceedingly large.

Those who heard Admiral Wright's address were impressed by his summation of the situation. They were impressed not only by the facts he presented but also by the way in which he presented them. He had a message which we are sure our Navy men and others, will take to heart.